

Education Committee

SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Dear Member of the Education Committee,

My name is Cony Castellano, it is my pleasure to write this letter to you with the hope of sharing a concerning matter regarding my child's education, specifically with regards to the underfunding of his school Achievement First Bridgeport Academy.

I thank you in advance for your service to our community in Bridgeport and hope you will support parents and children like me in the upcoming legislative session.

As an immigrant to this country, it has been my dream to create opportunities for my children that could not be afforded to them in my country of origin. I think of all the upstanding citizens in leadership roles- latinos like my family- who are now major parts of the fabric of this country. Like Alejandro Mayorkas, Miguel Cardona, the great Cesar Chavez, Jose M Hernandez (1 of 12 Nasa Hispanic astronauts born to a migrant Mexican farming family) just to name a few!

I speak power and greatness with humility and a mission to serve, always standing up for the oppressed, into my children.

With that same thought of serving the oppressed/ breaking down barriers. I ask you to join forces with us to end the educational inequality that has permeated our state since the first public charter school opened in 1996.

2021 is the year to finally bring fair funding to all Connecticut children regardless of the type of school they attend. We must end treating some students like second class citizens, by robbing them of their rightful access to the same funding any other student in the State receives for their education. We must expand (Open Danbury Prospect), and support great schools that are meeting/surpassing the mark of educational excellence like Stamford Excellence.

While we continue to talk about the massive financial/ emotional/ mental / social impact this pandemic has had on all us in this legislative session. We can celebrate the grit and unity of our community. I have seen so much support as an example of this, is the food distributions all over the city. I see our local and state elected officials, helping to reach out and offer support. You know who you are and I thank you!

I look forward to engaging with you in the coming weeks- to continue talks on ways we can support the children of families who live in marginalized communities like Bridgeport.- Our organization CTCSA will be in touch with you to invite you to upcoming meetings, I look forward to hearing from you.

I stand in support of SB 948, SB 949 and SB 886.

Best,

Cony Castellano and Family



